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S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 HARARE 000535

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TAGS: [AMGT](#) [ASEC](#) [CASC](#) [PREL](#) [ZI](#)
SUBJECT: HARARE: EAC MEETS TO DISCUSS RUNOFF ELECTION
PRECAUTIONS SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 27

REF: A. HARARE 489
[1](#)B. HARARE 457
[1](#)C. HARARE 414

Classified By: AMBASSADOR JAMES D MCGEE, REASONS (A) and (G).

SUMMARY

[1](#)1. (SBU) The Harare EAC convened on June 23 to review continued ZANU-PF violence within Harare and throughout Zimbabwe. Ambassador McGee led a discussion concerning the current level of violence and what the Embassy anticipates will occur in light of opposition candidate Morgan Tsvangirai's withdrawal from the election process. The Embassy tripwires were reviewed and authorized departure status was considered.

[1](#)2. (SBU) The EAC, consistent with the positions of the British, Australian and Canadian Embassies, agreed that implementing authorized departure status would be premature prior to a determination of the effect of MDC's withdrawal from the runoff election on ZANU-PF perpetrated violence. In the interim, additional security precautions were implemented as outlined in Paragraph 7. The Consular section is also drafting and seeking Department approval of a revised Travel Alert, which will advise U.S. citizens to defer all travel to Zimbabwe at this time and for U.S. citizens resident in Zimbabwe to consider relocating if circumstances warrant to insure their security during the election period. Also, regardless of whether the GOZ continues with the election, DQ ~M to review continued ZANU-PF violence within Harare and throughout Zimbabwe. Ambassador McGee chaired the meeting; present were RSO, CONS, MGT, DAO, POL, CDC, PAO, USAID, RPOL, MSG, and GSO.

[1](#)4. (S/NF) The Ambassador began the meeting by leading a discussion concerning the current situation in Zimbabwe and an assessment of how opposition candidate Morgan Tsvangirai's withdrawal from the presidential election could affect future violence. The Ambassador and RSO outlined that the current level of violence within Harare had escalated over the weekend. Factions of ZANU-PF are out of control and continue to attack MDC officials and supporters. EAC members believed it was too early to assess how Tsvangirai's withdrawal would effect future ZANU-PF violence. The EAC agreed that the level of violence directed toward non-Zimbabweans had not escalated significantly beyond that which was considered during the previous EAC, but that further security precautions were warranted to avoid a &wrong place, wrong time8 incident and until the GOZ,s intentions become clearer.

15. (S/NF) Tripwires were discussed in detail, regarding the potential for drawdown and rami&oc(ritish, Australian and Canadian embassies. To date, none have pursued authorized departure.

16. (SBU) Embassy activities: Regardless of the decision of the Zimbabwean government to proceed with the 27 June elections, the Mission will not be deploying election observers. Friday, June 27 (Election Day), has not been announced a national holiday; therefore, the embassy will be at normal staffing on that day with liberal leave provisions available to LES.

17. (SBU) The EAC approved a new travel alert advising U.S. citizens to defer all travel to Zimbabwe at this time and for U.S. citizens resident in Zimbabwe to consider re-locating to more secure locations if circumstances warrant to ensure their security during the election period. Additionally, travel within Zimbabwe and after dark should be avoided

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during the election period.

ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS

18. (SBU) EAC approved the following additional security precautions to be taken immediately for Mission personnel and family members:

- All non-essential travel after-dark should be curtailed, to include that between embassy residences, restaurants and nightclubs.
- All travel outside Harare city limits must receive Ambassadorial approval.
- Employees should make every effort to return home prior to nightfall at the end of the business day.
- Times and routes to and from work should be varied to avoid presenting a pattern to political activists who may be monitoring embIQggQvarge police events; carry radios at all times; keep fuel tanks above half full; utilize water conservation; have USD and ZIM cash on hand; carry diplomatic ID; advise Post One of any security situation.

CONCLUSION

19. (SBU) The EAC concluded that it will continue to assess the security situation and reconvene the EAC in the coming days as the situation develops. The additional security measures may be lifted once the June 27 election passes if there appears to be an abatement in violence.

McGee